

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named
Inventor : Siong Lee Lim et al.

Appln. No. : 10/696,879

Filed : October 30, 2003

For : MOUNTING CONFIGURATION FOR A
FILTRATION CANISTER

Docket No. : S104.12-0050/STL 11408.00

Group Art Unit: 1723

Examiner: M. Pham

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Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:

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1. Response.

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

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4 PAGES - INCLUDING COVER PAGE

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RESPONSE

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Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on August 30, 2005. In the Office Action, claims 1-10 and 12-22 were pending and were rejected. With this response, all claims are unchanged. For the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully believed that claims 1-10 and 12-22 are in condition for allowance.

On page two of the Office Action, claims 1-10 and 12-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over any one of the following references: Graeve (U.S. Patent No. 6,475,270), Ueki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,712,887, hereinafter "Ueki") and Boroson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,740,145, hereinafter "Boroson"). To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the prior art reference must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. *In re Vaeck*, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991); M.P.E.P. §2143. Applicant respectfully submits that the evidence of record in the latest Office Action is insufficient to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. In particular, it is respectfully submitted that each cited reference simply does not teach or suggest all of the elements recited in independent claims 1, 12 and 22. For example, none of Graeve, Ueki et al. and Boroson et al. teach or suggest a "larger cross-section adjacent the outer surface than adjacent the inner surface" of an enclosure.

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Graeve discloses a diffusion channel filter assembly for use with an electronic device enclosure. The diffusion channel filter assembly comprises two or more nested cups having vent holes allowing airflow. The diffusion channel filter assembly 172 is mounted to the interior of housing 170 using an adhesive layer 178 (see FIG. 12). A vent hole 180 is aligned with an aperture 182 in housing 170. As can be seen from FIGS. 11 and 12, the diffusion channel filter assembly is attached adjacent the interior of housing 170 (col. 8, lns. 17-25). It is respectfully submitted that Graeve does not teach or suggest an aperture extending between the outer surface and the inner surface of an enclosure that is configured to house components of a data storage system, wherein the aperture has "a larger cross-section adjacent the outer surface than adjacent the inner surface" as recited in claims 1, 12, and 22. Further, Graeve also does not teach or suggest "a filter disposed within the aperture" as recited in claims 1, 12, and 22.

Ueki discloses a gas absorption filter located over a breathing hole within a semi-airtight container. The filter is attached adjacent the breather hole using an adhesive 23 (see FIG. 7 and col. 11, lines 3-37). It is respectfully submitted that Ueki does not teach or suggest an aperture extending between the outer surface and the inner surface of the enclosure that is configured to house components of a data storage system, wherein the aperture has "a larger cross-section adjacent the outer surface than adjacent the inner surface" of claims 1, 12, and 22. Further, Ueki also does not teach or suggest "a filter disposed within the aperture" as recited in claims 1, 12, and 22.

It should be noted that both the Graeve reference and the Ueki reference disclose features that correspond with features (i.e. adhesives used to mount a filter to an interior surface of a disc drive) that were discussed on page 4, line 27 through page 5, line 16 of the Specification. The Specification contemplates that these features are undesirable features. In contrast, the present invention provides advantages over these prior art techniques. It is respectfully submitted that Graeve and Ueki et al. teach away from that which is disclosed in the Specification and claimed.

Boroson discloses a desiccant package 50 sealed against a test structure 10. As can be seen from FIG. 4, Boroson does not disclose "an aperture extending between the outer surface

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and the inner surface of the enclosure" as recited in claims 1, 12, and 22. Further, Boroson also does not teach or suggest an aperture having "a larger cross-section adjacent the outer surface than adjacent the inner surface" and "a filter disposed within the aperture" as recited in claims 1, 12, and 22.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 12, and 22 are patentable over Graeve, Ueki, and Boroson and are in allowable form. Further, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2-10 and 13-21 are also allowable at least based on their relation to claims 1 or 12. Further, Applicants believe many of these claims to be independently patentable. For example, claim 3 recites "wherein the filter has a first end adjacent the outer surface and a second end adjacent the inner surface, the first end having an area greater than the second end". Further, claims 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, and 18 generally recite a seal mounted to the outer surface of the enclosure and a portion of the filter. Additionally, claims 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, and 17 generally recite a label adhered to the outer surface of the enclosure.

In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-10 and 12-22 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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